ing the heavy guns employed in seacoast defense is invented or discovered.

Why, then, it may fairly be asked, did General Buffington vote against appropriating $2,000 for the construction of the new French gun by the army officer who brought over the plans? Presumably because that officer does not belong to the ordnance corps. Professional jealousy? Rather pride in one's own arm of the service. It is the duty of ordnance officers to superintend the manufacture and distribution of weapons of all kinds to the army and to keep track of them after distribution. General Buffington, no doubt, thought the new French gun should be constructed under the superintendence of an officer of his corps and so voted. Under similar circumstances any other head of any other branch of the army would have similarly voted for the honor of his own corps. General Buffington was overruled by the other members of the Board of Ordnance and Fortification and the new French gun is being constructed under the supervision of the artillery officer who secured the drawings for it. The gun will be finished in time and tested. If it meets the tests and proves to be a good thing it will be adopted for service use. If it fails it will be rejected. That is all the people generally care about. They care nothing about the personal quarrels and professional jealousies of the officers at the head of the army, unless indeed, they should become a public scandal and endanger the welfare of the army itself and possibly of the country.

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Senator Pettigrew is reported as saying that he would talk the shipping subsidy bill to death. There is a great deal of doubt of the enactment of the shipping subsidy bill at the coming session, especially in its present form. But if it is defeated it will not be because Pettigrew or any other one senator puts a quietus on it by talk. It will be because there will not be a majority of senators bent on passing it. Theoretically there is no limit to debate in the Senate, and a vote is never taken save by unanimous consent. These things lend themselves to delay, but they have never yet and doubtless never will defeat the passage of a bill through the Senate that has a clear majority in its favor. The majority in the Senate intent upon the passage of a measure has always been able to force a vote. The method is very simple. When the majority decides that the minority has been given time enough in which to debate the matter under consideration it quietly refuses to adjourn until after a vote has been had. This is known as the test of physical endurance. It never fails to bring a vote. The last time it has been resorted to was in the special session of the Fifty-third Congress called to repeal the silver purchasing clause of the Sherman act. The minority was desperately defiant and determined to talk the bill to death. Finally the time came when the majority refused to adjourn and declined to take part in the debate. The minority was compelled to keep some one on the floor talking all the time, day and night. It was on this occasion that Senator Allen, the giant Populist from Nebraska, then a new man in the Senate, talked all through one night, from about 6 o'clock in the evening until after 8 o'clock the next morning, nearly fifteen hours. This feat gained for him the title of the champion long-distance orator of the United States. After two or three nights of this sort of thing the minority was forced to yield and consent to a vote. It was taken and the obnoxious clause was repealed unconditionally. So it will be with the shipping subsidy bill, provided a majority of the senators make up their minds to pass it whether or no. The outlook is that the sponsors of that measure have taken a good deal for granted and that their pet measure will meet with opposition in both houses from unexpected sources. It looks now as though in the Senate this measure may find itself in the condition the election or so-called force bill did in the Fifty-first Congress. The bill was passed in the House under whip and spur. In the Senate it met with solid Democratic opposition, led by Senator Gorman, of Maryland, one of the ablest parliamentary leaders seen in Congress for years. Day after day he marshaled his forces and withstood the assaults of the Republicans, led by Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts. Try as he would, Hoar could not bring on a vote. Gorman insisted that all he wanted was time in which to debate properly this great question. All the time he was engaged in coming to an agreement with certain Republicans of the group known as Silver Republicans. Senator Hoar could never muster a majority to sit it out. The regular adjournment was taken every day at 5 o'clock in the evening. At last one day a motion was made to proceed to the consideration of another bill. It was carried by a majority of one. The election bill, replaced by the other, lost its parliamentary position, went to the foot of the calendar and was heard of no more. This was a case where the majority of the Senate was nominally but not really in favor of the pending bill. For that reason the majority declined to enter upon a test of physical endurance. They found it easier, too, to kill the election bill indirectly by taking up another bill in its place than by directly voting against it. Signs are not wanting that this may be the fate of the shipping subsidy bill.

EDWARD WRIGHT BRADY.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

What is Trafalgar day in London?—B. T. L.

Oct. 21, the anniversary of Nelson's victory, in 1805.

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Did William J. Bryan receive as many votes in 1900 as he did in 1896?—H. C.

The official count for the late election is not yet complete.

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To whom should I apply for a fourth-class postoffice?—E. B.

To the fourth assistant postmaster general, at Washington.

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Have there been any United States bonds issued by the present administration?—H. B.

Yes; a matter of $192,846,780 worth.

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What is the meaning of the term "step-down," as used in electrical matters?—B.

Converting a small current of high potential into a large one of low potential.

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What were Cleveland's popular vote in Kentucky in 1892 and Bryan's in the same State in 1896?—C. H.

For Cleveland, 175,461; for Bryan, 217,890.

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Who is president of the Standard Oil Company? 2. What are shares in that company worth?—J. C. H.

William Rockefeller. 2. They have sold recently at over $700 the share.

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When was Thanksgiving first observed and when was it made a national holiday?—F.

In 1621, by the Plymouth colonists. It never has been made a national holiday.

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In the divorce laws of Dakota is the ninety-day limitation still in force?—W. W.

The previous residence required in South Dakota is six months and in North Dakota one year.

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What was the rate of interest on the bonds issued during Cleveland's administration?—I. H.

The loan of 1904, $100,000,000, bore 5 per cent.; that of 1895, $162,315,400, bore 4 per cent.

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What book can I get that will enable me to study shorthand—a good system—without the aid of a teacher?—B.

Ben Pittman's text-book, which can be had at any bookstore, is a standard work.

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Will you give the names and addresses of the members of the Republican national committee for Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma?—J. I. C.

A. T. Wimberley, New Orleans; Powell Clayton, Eureka Springs; Henry E. Asp, Guthrie.

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Is any certain day in the year set apart for Thanksgiving day, or has the President the power to name the day?—Fruitland.

The day is designated by the President's proclamation, and custom confines the choice to the fourth or the last Thursday in November.

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What is the correct name of the insect known as "Granddaddy-long-legs?—Coz.

He is phalangiid arachnid, and also is known as carter, harvestman and Harry-long-legs. He is not a true insect, but is classed with the scorpions among the arthropodis animals.

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Where can a man learn the watchmaker's trade? 2. Where can a person learn the cigar maker's trade?—G. W. P.

At Elgin, Ill., or Waltham, Mass. 2. Indianapolis manufacturers, of whom there are a number, sometimes give employment to beginners.

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Are there any positions to be filled at the Pan-American congress, which is to be held next year at Buffalo? If so, who is the one to address?—H. C.

You probably refer to the Pan-American exposition, which is to be held at Buffalo next year. Write to the secretary of the exposition at Buffalo.

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What is the population of the country, aside from the possessions acquired in the Spanish War?—S. S.

Estimating Alaska's population at 44,000, the figures are 76,210,820. This includes 154,001 for Hawaii, and is exclusive of those in the over-seas service of the United States. These last are estimated at 84,400.

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Subscriber: Fowler's solution is frequently used in the treatment of certain nervous and skin diseases, but it should never be taken except under a doctor's direction, its effect and the proper dose varying according to the condition and needs of the patient. We cannot give general directions for its use.

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How long has lawn tennis been played, and how did it originate?—C.

Credit for devising the game is given to one Major Wingfield, of Wales. This was in 1874, and a year later the ruling cricket organization of England appointed a committee to draft rules for it. The game was played in this country in 1874, and its source is in two games played in Europe as early as the fifteenth century.

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What is the meaning of the term "lis pendens?" 2. How long was Dr. McCosh president of Princeton University?—J. L. T.

A rule by which neither party to a lawsuit can transfer property that is the subject of the suit to the disadvantage of the opponent. 2. He was president of the College of New Jersey from 1868 to 1888, when his resignation was accepted, but he was president emeritus until his death in 1894. The college did not take the corporate name of Princeton University until 1896.

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Will you give a short sketch of the life of Henry Van Dyke, D. D.?—A. M. C.

He was the son of Henry Jackson Van Dyke, D. D., and was born at Germantown, Pa., Nov. 10, 1852. He was educated at Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, Princeton College and Seminary and the University of Berlin. After 1879 he was active in the ministry, having been settled at Newport and New York city. He has published a number of books of a literary and religious character. In 1899 he was elected to occupy the "Murray" chair of literature at Princeton University, and is now with that institution.

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How can I remove ink stains from cloth?—C. S.

Much depends on the composition of the ink and the texture and color of the cloth. But lemon juice often is effective, and other agents that work with some inks are one part of oxalic acid in two parts of water; one part of chloride of tin in three parts of water, and pure muriatic acid, diluted with ten parts of water. When the color of the cloth is affected by treatment, it is recommended to moisten the spots with milk and cover with fine salt. In all cases it is wise first to experiment in a spot where any damage will not show.

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Who first urged a national copyright law for this country, and when? 2. Did Jamaica intercede with England for us in the revolution?—T. A. M. N.

Dr. David Ramsay, of South Carolina, probably. April 5, 1789, he petitioned Congress to pass a law giving him and his heirs copyright in two histories he had written. A bill was passed the following year. 2. Yes; its legislature begged the King to give us the benefits of the English Constitution, affirming the rights of colonists and outlining our grievances. But Jamaica was weak, having no more of whites than could look after her big slave population, and the plea came to naught.

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Give the best known hair dye that is least injurious. Something not "patented" and not oily and that will really color hair. 2. Do any religious denominations retain divorced ministers?—M. N. O.

A tea made from walnut bark is a harmless dye, coloring the hair black, but it is difficult to apply without staining the scalp. Peroxide of hydrogen is used to bleach hair yellow. No dye is permanent, and in all cases the original color shows at the roots as the hair grows. 2. We do not know that any church has made a formal rule barring divorced ministers from the pulpit. Such ministers, however, are not usually in favor and their usefulness is lessened.

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Why is it that on the ocean bottom near the equator, where the sea is from four to five miles in depth, the temperature is from 35 to 36 degrees Fahrenheit, while the surrounding land (according to the measurements of scientists) increases in heat one degree every sixty feet and at the same depth of the ocean is from 415 to 500 degrees Fahrenheit.—W. W.

The low temperature of the water at the bottom of the ocean at the equator is supposed to be caused by deep sea currents from the Antarctic regions. The fact that north of the equator the water at a given depth is several degrees warmer than that at the same depth an equal distance south proves to scientists that the cold currents come from the Antarctic, rather than the Arctic, regions. If the water were withdrawn from the ocean its floor would probably be of a nearly uniform temperature with higher land, differing only as hills and valleys now visible do.

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Will you give an account of the Chinese exclusion act from beginning to the present condition?—S. S. S.

Our relations with China date back to the treaty of 1844, by which five Chinese ports were opened and protection for Americans in China was guaranteed. Further advantage came from a treaty concluded in 1858, and the Burlingame treaty, ten years later, acknowledged the Chinese right to migrate, and expressly promised as many privileges for Chinese immigrants as were enjoyed by any other immigrants. By 1880, 105,000 Chinese were enumerated, and Californians had more than enough. In 1877 a bill restricting Chinese immigration was passed by both Houses of Congress and vetoed by President Hayes. The next year a commission sent to China negotiated an agreement by which immigration was partly prohibited. Murderous rioting against Chinamen occurred in Wyoming in 1885, and in 1888 a bill excluding Chinese immigration received the President's signature. The Geary act of 1892 put the screws on still harder by imposing restrictions on Chinamen already here, but it was impossible to enforce all of them and in the following year it was partly rescinded.

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What are the present meanings and historical derivations of the following expressions: To hector. 2. Martial. 3. Stentorian. 4. Apples of Discord. 5. Like a Trojan. 6. Like the laws of the Medes and Persians. 7. Attic salt. 8. Parthian arrows. 9. Punic faith. 10. To clean the augean stables?—L.

To tease; from Hector, the Trojan warrior, or from the Greek word signifying to hold fast. 2. Warlike or soldierly; traceable to Mars, the Roman god of war. 3. Loud in sound; from Stentor, a Greek herald, whom Homer credited with a voice as powerful as those of fifty men combined. 4. A cause of dispute; at the wedding of Thetis and Peleus, Discord gave a prize of a golden apple for the most beautiful. Venus got it, but much trouble resulted. 5. With much courage and spirit; from the qualities credited to Trojans by Homer. 6. Unalterable, as were those laws. 7. Delicate wit, for which Athenians were noted. 8. The last word; from the custom of the Parthians of sending a final arrow as they retreated from battle. 9. Treachery, of which the Romans accused the Puni. 10. To clear away an accumulation of corruption; from the story of the stables of the Greek King Elis that for thirty years were not cleaned.

DISSEMINATION OF DISEASE.

An Old Practitioner Tells of Things That Should Be Avoided.

Even so simple a matter as borrowing a lead pencil may lead to the dissemination of disease in a family. Among children, especially, "swapping" pencils is one method of showing good fellowship, and the child who swaps is sometimes the innocent cause of transmitting sore throat, skin disease or diphtheria to his best friend. The use of public pencils is also, no doubt, responsible for the transmission of disease from one to another, the danger being far greater when a person moistens the lead in the mouth. Aside from being a filthy habit, this is a dangerous one in any case, for the lead is comparatively rough and has cavities, which are to the germs as vast caves in which they lurk and from which they may be transferred to the mucous membranes through which disease enters most readily into the system.

As for penholders, they are much more commonly used by many persons, and the danger of transmission of disease germs by them is therefore greater. At the hotel counter and the bank desk penholders are handled by thousands in the course of a few days, and of this number some may and do have skin diseases, at least, which may be contagious and are thus transferable to others. It would not be a great tax upon the larger establishments at least to have cheap penholders in such quantity that each person could have a new one, but the remedy is much simpler. Fountain pens are cheap enough, nowadays, to allow every business man and woman to own one, but if that is not possible a pocket penholder is certainly within the means of all. Blotting paper, too, on public desks, bears its own evidence of soiling many hands, and from its absorbent nature it is especially congenial to germ elements.

As for public combs and brushes, the danger is too evident and disgusting to need advice against their use, and the same applies to public towels, a public convenience, perhaps, but a common source, even to-day, of the itch or worse diseases. To wipe the hands upon them is bad enough, but to wipe the face and eyes is courting trouble of a serious kind.

Common drinking cups may be a source of infection as well as of a cooling or exhilarating draught, as the case may be, and this applies just as much, if not more so, to communion cups, used, it is true, in a holy cause, but none the less likely to serve a most wicked purpose. In fact, any article touched by the lips or hands that passes from one person to another may convey contagious virus or infectious germs. Nor is it necessary to even touch such articles.

Library books are no doubt often conveyers of disease, and, although librarians have been frequently urged by sanitarians to adopt some method of disinfecting books, few, if any, have seen fit to do so, although there is a cheap, harmless and efficacious method of so doing by formaldehyde.

Even articles that are, in a sense, private property are possible factors in disease causation. Postage stamps, for example, and other gummed articles, notably the flap of an envelope, are fertile fields for the growth of germs that may be blown or otherwise implanted upon the gummed surface, the danger being increased from the liability that the tongue may be cut by the paper edge in moistening them. The person who uses his tongue to moisten stamps and the like may be infected or inoculated as effectually as if the poison was injected.

The time will come when the individual will have his individual objects of daily use. Even in the household it is wise to have one's own towel, soap, sponge and the like for the toilet. Surely every one, nowadays, has his or her own toothbrush and comb and brush. At the table the fad of having individual cups and saucers and other ware is a sensible one, though not a necessary one in most cases, but if there is any person in the family affected with disease, especially consumption and the like, it is absolutely necessary that that person have his or her own dishes of such a distinctive pattern that they cannot be mistaken.

Kissing has been a much discussed question, and, while sentiment defends the practice, hygiene is in favor of abolishing it, at least as a mark of public affection. Many an infant who has been given a kiss of affection has in reality been given the kiss of death, and in adult life serious diseases, if not fatal ones, have been transmitted by the kiss of one supposed to be pure, yet saturated with disease. Doubtless the crusade against kissing has been carried to an absurdity, but promiscuous kissing, aside from its indelicacy, is dangerous.

Some even carry their dread of germs so far as to refuse to shake hands with any one for fear of contamination, a refusal which only creates ridicule and contempt, although it is founded on sound reasons. When the dread of germs reaches such a stage it becomes a monomania, or phobia, an abnormal fear, and makes life miserable not only to the individual but to his or her friends. The victim dreads to touch anything of any description, even the hand rail of a car, or a newspaper, and objects even within the home seem to swarm with disease germs. The hands are washed after handling any object with the same maniacal zeal as that exercised by Lady Macbeth in her attempts to remove the imaginary blood stains that imbued her hands. The victim goes to extraordinary measures to avoid ever-suspected contagion and infection, and denies common necessities to himself and those around him. Such a condition is manifestly uncomfortable, if not painful, to all concerned, but there is no need to carry precaution to this extent.

Moderation in precaution is a safeguard against disease, not only of a contagious nature, but of all disease. Proper precaution, for example, warns a person against sitting in a draught when perspiring; it is well known to all that a disregard of this precaution inevitably brings on a cold and perhaps pneumonia or other lung or throat trouble. It is not so well known that breathing through the nose is a safeguard against catching cold. It warms the inspired air and thus prevents its chilling the tissues, and it also, by means of the hairs in the nose, strains out dust and germs productive of disease by irritation and infection. True, these hairs become unsightly in some cases, but it is not wise to pluck them out by the roots, as many do, since nasal or deeper seated disease may follow even this simple operation.

Too heavy clothing, instead of preventing a cold, actually causes it, and so does a room overheated and ill-ventilated; and here again the dangers are increased by the elements favorable to the activity of germs. Indulgence in over-hearty food is sure to cause indigestion sooner or later, but he who does not overindulge is liable to swallow disease germs if his food is not prepared under cleanly surroundings. Attendance to the calls of nature is of as much importance to the welfare of man as eating and drinking, yet from indifference or hurry the habit is often irregular and disease results because waste matter is retained within the intestines and the poisonous elements generated therein are absorbed into the system and lead to headache and other more serious ills, which may be of slight importance at first, but soon become serious if not fatal.

Even the wearing of soiled linen is fraught with danger from germs which have imbedded themselves in the fabric and find a congenial soil in the dirt. As for personal cleanliness, neglect of the bath not only furnishes elements for germ activity, but the accumulated secretions block the pores of the skin, interfere with its functions, and lead to self-poisoning by waste material generated within the body.

The food that we eat may be a cause of infection. Avoid a filthy provision store as you would the plague! Meat that is mauled over a dirty block, handled with dirty hands and cut with a soiled and rusty knife may be harmless, but the percentage of danger in it is far greater than in that sold under more inviting circumstances. So with bread, cake, and the like; dirty surroundings mean germ danger.

In fact, the prime factor in disinfection is cleanliness in the first place and all the time. Sunlight, air and water are foes to all germs, and the airy bright and clean home is usually a healthy home. So the cleanly person is usually free from dread filth diseases, not because he is less exposed in everyday life to the influence of these germs, but because germs do not thrive in clean places. Filth and corruption nourish and fertilize germs and disease thrives most vigorously in such places whether it be on persons or things.

Even the cleanly person is not immune if he or she is careless in habits. So simple a matter as rubbing the eyes with the fingers may lead to painful eye affections and even the loss of sight, from the fact that some disease-causing germ has attached itself to the fingers. As for rubbing the eyes with a handkerchief that has been used to wipe the nose, that is a common cause of eye inflammation. Even the prick of a pin may cause blood poisoning and the loss of a hand or arm, or death.

The moral of all this is clear. Be cleanly in your habits and touch not that which is soiled, even though it be a bargain at a rummage sale, for dread diphtheria and scarlet fever may lurk in the folds of a garment or the crevices of furniture. On the other hand, do not make yourself ridiculous. In this, as in many other questions of health, if it is carried to excess it simply makes life miserable, but proper precaution makes life enjoyable and lengthens our days. L. N., M. D.

IN THE GOSSIP'S CORNER.

Not long ago I was in one of the wealthier homes of Indianapolis, where affluence lent all possible aid to culture and where the surroundings gave visible evidence of the mental graces. Left in the library to wait for the one I wished to see, I was given the cordial invitation "help yourself" with a wave of the hand toward the well-filled book cases. There were nearly a thousand volumes, uniformly bound, and I felt the book-lover's thrill as I looked over the titles. I drew a "Stones of Venice" from its niche. It was a beautiful example of the book-making art, and the typography was equally perfect. As I attempted to turn over the leaves I found it was uncut. I put it back and took forth "Sesame and Lilies." It, too, had never seen a knife. Through Ruskin, Emerson, the Marlowe plays, a beautiful little translation of the "Odes of Horace," Wordsworth, an edition de luxe of two English poets, uniform, which was one of the two exceptions to the library's uniformity—all were uncut. On the library table were some of the lighter magazines, showing marks of hard usage; some well-thumbed paper-bound novels, and a dilapidated copy, in cloth, of one of Ouida's stories. On a reading table, in a file case, by a student lamp, were a score or more of the highly imaginative chronicles (ten cents per chronicle) of the very exciting exploits of a surprising young man at Yale, which also had been read and reread, else appearances were deceptive. And my thoughts, as I went out of the library and the house, were—as Samantha Allen would say—more scriptural than moral.

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There's a good-natured butcher out on Illinois street, a few of whose friends chaff him considerably about stealing a dead man's coat. He insists that the dead man took his coat and details the circumstances, which developed in one of the larger gas-belt towns, as follows: "I'd just got a new black sack suit," he avers, "and put it on one Sunday morning to go down town, when I got word that a friend of mine was dead, and the family wanted me to help lay him out. They weren't in very good circumstances, and couldn't afford to buy a new black suit to bury him in so had got out one that he had worn a few times, but which still looked pretty well. We got him partly dressed, and left the coat hanging on the back of a chair. It was pretty warm work and I had taken off my coat and hung it on the back of a chair. When we were ready to put the coat on him I grabbed one of them, and as it would be a hard matter to get it on in the regular way I just took my knife and slit it down the back from top to bottom, alongside the seam. We put it on him, fixed him up nicely in the coffin, and it wasn't until I got ready to go home that I found I'd slit my own coat down the back, and that the dead man's garment was hanging on the chair back, where I put it."

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Several big Eastern dailies are devoting considerable space to a discussion of the development of the "automobile face." That must be what I saw coming down Meridian street yesterday. A woman, alone, occupied the seat of torture on the "auto" and her face was worth studying, while the fate of woman and vehicle was problematical. The machine would tack to port and the look of anxiety would deepen as the pilot gave the tiller a twist. The spectators held their breath, expecting to see the craft come up, all standing, against the curb, when it answered the helm, stayed and filled handsomely, and blithely headed for the west shore. The fair pilot set her teeth firmly, said "Oh, dear!" distinctly and vindictively, and jammed the tiller hard down just in time to escape wreck on the reef. The wind hauled a little then and for fully fifty yards she held a course with the sheets a little off, but just as the skipper was developing an "I knew I could do it" smile the wind came contrary again and the tacking was resumed. Luckily, the course was fairly clear, few other craft being in sight, and these speedily sought harbors down the side streets.

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There is one woman in Indianapolis who isn't entitled to the blessing God has given her in the form of a cherubic boy, now about nine months old, with as pretty a pair of blue eyes, with those long, dark lashes that women rave over, as there is in the city. Probably there are other women in the same category, but this one stands out pre-eminent. She is fashionable, popular, has a fair share of good looks, and likes to go. At an afternoon gathering, the other day, she voiced her complaint in extenso. "I have to give up so much on account of baby," she said plaintively. "I can't go out and I can't entertain. He takes up so much of my time. Oh! no, he isn't cross. He rarely cries, and he sleeps well nights, but he takes so much of my time. I sometimes am almost tempted to give him away. I don't believe I'd grieve very much if he were to die." And all the other women chorused: "Oh! you heartless thing!" wherein they were right. THE GOSSIP.

Love of Life.

O life, O life,
How human hearts do cling to thee!
Though thou hast toil and strife,
Trials and cares are rife;
Still, with a strange tenacity,
Hearts cling to thee, O life.

So sweet thou art,
There's naught to liken thee unto;
Still sweet, though joys depart,
Bequeathing sting and smart;
Sweet, though misfortunes meet the view;
So sweet, O life, thou art!

How precious, thou!
Ah, we have looked on our dear dead,
And their cold lips and brow
Left breaking hearts—yet now
The coming years are coveted;
So precious, life, art thou!

How dear, how dear!
Yea, faith assures that lands await
Whose skies are ever clear;
Yet would we linger here,
Where ills and griefs accumulate—
O life, thou art so dear!

—Margaret Manning.

Irvington.